

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 05 JAN 2004
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Applicant's or agent's file reference P 03 090 WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/IB 03/01616	International filing date (day/month/year) 11.03.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 13.03.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC B65D88/00		
Applicant VESTAS WIND SYSTEMS A/S et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the opinion
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 29.09.2003	Date of completion of this report 02.01.2004
Name and mailing address of the International preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Lendfers, P Telephone No. +49 89 2399-2933



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International application No. PCT/IB 03/01616

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-17 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-46 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/17-17/17 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

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International application No.

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5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-46
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-46
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-46
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

The invention relates to an extendable container system for transporting a wind turbine blade comprising:

- at least one module configured to be connected to other modules, the module comprising a box shaped frame and corrugated side walls attached to the frame, and
- a connecting member positioned at each end of the module for connection between the module and the other module to extend the length of the container system.

The closest prior art document appears to be DE-A-197 15 910. This document discloses a connecting system for connecting only two containers. No hint is given in this document about positioning a connecting member at each side of the module.

Document US-A-4 108 326 discloses frames which are removably coupled to the ends of a standard 20ft. intermodal container to extend it to an effective length of 40ft. The document is silent about a container module connection.

The combination of the features of each of the independent claims 1, 30, 38, 43 and 44 is neither known from, nor rendered obvious by, the available prior art. Therefore, the subject-matter of independent claims 1, 30, 38, 43 and 44 is new and inventive (Articles 33(2) and 33(3) PCT). As a consequence, the subject-matter of dependent claims 2 to 29, 31 to 37, 39 to 42, 45 and 46 also fulfils the requirements of novelty and inventive step. Furthermore, claims 1 to 46 are considered as susceptible of industrial application.